

## GLOSSARY

**Accessibility** - The provision of NPS programs, facilities, and services in ways that include individuals with disabilities, or make available to those individuals the same benefits available to persons without disabilities.

**Archeological Resource** - Any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities that are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. An archeological resource is capable of revealing scientific or humanistic information through archeological research.

**Carrying Capacity** - The type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in a park. Carrying capacities for national park units are established using the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection framework, which is a planning process that determines the desired resource and visitor experience conditions based on measurements of quantifiable indicators and standards.

**Conservation Easement** - A legal agreement between a landowner and another party that protects the conservation value of a parcel by limiting uses and changes that the landowner may make to it. The holder of the conservation easement may monitor the property to enforce the restrictions.

**Cultural Landscape** - A geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person, or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. There are four non-mutually exclusive types of cultural landscapes: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

**Cultural Resource** - An aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture, or that contains significant information about a culture. A cultural resource may be a tangible entity or a cultural practice. Tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects for the National Register of Historic Places, and as archeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources for NPS management purposes.

**Defensible Space** - The space needed for firefighters to adequately defend structures from oncoming wildland fires, or to stop a structural fire before it ignites wildland vegetation. Defensible space describes the desired result of planning, siting, and constructing developed facilities in a way that minimizes their vulnerability to wildfire threats and maximizes their protection against wildfire hazards.

**Downeast Maine** - A region in Maine that consists of the coastal areas of Hancock and Washington counties. The name was coined in reference to sailing in an easterly direction, downwind from Boston.

**Environmental Impact Statement** - A detailed NEPA analysis document that is prepared when proposed actions or alternatives have the potential for significant impact on the human environment.

**Ethnographic Resources** - Objects and places, including sites, structures, landscapes, and natural resources, with traditional cultural meaning and value to associated peoples. Research and consultation with associated people identifies and explains the places and objects they find culturally meaningful.

**Geologic Resources** - Features produced from the physical history of the Earth, or processes such as exfoliation, erosion and sedimentation, glaciation, karst or shoreline processes, seismic, and volcanic activities.

**General Management Plan** - A plan that clearly defines direction for resource protection, visitor use, and development in a park, and serves as the basic foundation for decision-making over a 10–15-year time frame.

**Historic Property** - A district, site, building, structure, or object significant in the history of American archeology, architecture, culture, engineering, or politics at the national, state, or local level.

**Impact** - The likely effects of an action or proposed action upon specific natural, cultural, or socioeconomic resources. Impacts may be direct, indirect, cumulative, beneficial, or adverse. Severe impacts that harm the integrity of park resources or values are known as "impairments."

**Impairment** - An impact so severe that, in the professional judgment of a responsible NPS manager, it would harm the integrity of park resources or values and violate the 1916 NPS Organic Act.

**Leave No Trace** - Principles and practices that emphasize the ethic of leaving a place free and clear of human presence. Applied to all forms of recreation management within wilderness or other sensitive resource areas.

**Lightscape (natural)** - The state of natural resources and values as they exist in the absence of human-caused light.

**Management Prescriptions** - A planning term referring to statements about desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, along with appropriate kinds and levels of management, use, and development for each park area.

**Management Zones** - These zones identify how geographic areas in the park will be managed to achieve a combination of desired conditions. Each zone prescribes a unique combination of physical, biological, social, and managerial conditions along with specific management strategies that should be taken to achieve the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences for a given zone.

**National Register of Historic Places** - The nation's official list of properties (districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) having national, state, or local historic significance and deemed worthy of preservation. The National Register was established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

**National Environmental Policy Act Process** - The objective analysis of a proposed action to determine the degree of its environmental impact on the natural and human environment; alternatives and mitigation that reduce that impact; and the full and candid presentation of the analysis to, and involvement of, the interested and affected public. Required of all federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

**Recreation Visit** - The entry of a person into the park for recreational purposes. Recreational visits do not include commuter traffic, people traveling through the park to inholdings, and tradespeople conducting business in the park. NPS employees and their families, concessioner and cooperating association employees, contractors, and those conducting activities associated with cooperative agreements are not counted as visits.

**Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (The)** - A set of guidelines for preserving, rehabilitating, restoring, and reconstructing historically significant districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character as it has evolved over time. Restoration depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods. Reconstruction re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

**Social Trail** - A trail that is not officially designated or maintained by NPS and develops by continuous human use rather than by purposeful design and construction.

**Soundscape (natural)** - The aggregate of all the natural, non-human-caused sounds that occur in parks, together with the physical capacity for transmitting natural sounds.

**Sustainable Practices/Principles** - Those choices, decisions, actions, and ethics that will best achieve ecological/biological integrity; protect qualities and functions of air, water, soil, and other aspects of the natural environment. Sustainable practices allow for use and enjoyment by the current generation while ensuring that future generations will have the same opportunities.